

Date Mailed December 11, 2001

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company, as a Gas
Public Utility for Authority to Procure Network Data
Services for Automated Meter Reading for Natural Gas
Customers

6630-CG-117

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING to consider the November 12, 2001, application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.03 to install and place in operation an automated meter reading system.

WEPCO is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5)(a) and is engaged in the business of providing natural gas service portions of southern and eastern Wisconsin.

WEPCO's application proposes the installation of an automated meter reading (AMR) system which WEPCO claims will allow many of its gas meters to be read without the need for a person to physically access them. WEPCO estimates the cost of the gas portion of the project will be \$23,393,900. Property having an estimated book value of \$2,500,000 would be retired.

Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.03(1)(i), requires that a gas public utility obtain Commission authorization under Wis. Stat. § 196.49(2) for the installation of any equipment, property, apparatus, building, facility, or addition thereto, the cost of which exceeds \$600,000 or four percent of the utility's gross gas operating revenue received during the previous calendar year, whichever is less.

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.05(2), the Commission may consider the application without a hearing.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

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This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). No unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely. Neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Reisdorf at (608) 267-1475.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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